



Guidance for Management of Solid Waste During the COVID-19 Pandemic

NHDES has compiled the below list of resources related to management of solid waste during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please check these websites and documents frequently as knowledge and best management practices continue to evolve.

NHDES has also developed a one-page Safety Checklist for solid waste facility operators, which summarizes much of the below guidance for quick-reference. The checklist is available here:

<https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/waste/swmb/documents/swoperators-safetytips.pdf>

If you are a permittee or an owner/operator of a solid waste facility in New Hampshire and need to make changes to your facility operations to meet the recommended guidance, including changes to:

- minimize contact with solid waste that may contain the virus that causes COVID-19,
- maintain appropriate distance between staff and/or users of the facility,
- operating hours, or
- other facility services,

please notify NHDES of the needed changes via email sent to solidwasteinfo@des.nh.gov. We will place the notice in the facility record. No additional action is required on your part to update the Department.

If you have questions regarding other waste streams, such as household hazardous waste, hazardous waste, wastewater, or septic systems (subsurface systems), please see NHDES' Contact Us webpage here

<https://www.des.nh.gov/contactus/index.htm> or call NHDES' main line at (603) 271-3503 to be directed to the program that can assist with your specific inquiry.

If you have additional questions regarding solid waste, you may contact NHDES' Solid Waste Management Bureau at (603) 271-2925.

Waste Management and Worker-Related Guidance

NEW! Centers for Disease Control (CDC):

- What Waste Collectors and Recyclers Need to Know about COVID-19:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/waste-collection-recycling-workers-h.pdf>

NEW! Northeast Resource Recovery Association (NRRRA):

- Webinar "Best Management Practices for Recycling Facilities During COVID-19":
<https://register.gotowebinar.com/recording/344922258663717133>
- Written Summary of Webinar Q&A: <https://nrra.net/wp-content/uploads/BMPs-for-Recycling-During-COVID-19-041520-Webinar-QA-Summary.pdf>

NEW! Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):

- Recycling and Sustainable Management of Food During the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Public Health Emergency:
<https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/recycling-and-sustainable-management-food-during-coronavirus-covid-19-public-health>

Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA):

- Interim Guidance for Solid Waste and Wastewater Management Workers/Employers:
<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/solid-waste-wastewater-mgmt.html>
- Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19: <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf>



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Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA):

- Guidance on Coronavirus (COVID-19): [https://swana.org/initiatives/guidance-on-coronavirus-\(covid-19\)](https://swana.org/initiatives/guidance-on-coronavirus-(covid-19))

National Waste & Recycling Association (NWRA):

- COVID-19 Work Practices: <https://wasterecycling.org/page/covid19workpractices>
- Healthcare Waste Institute FAQs: https://cdn.ymaws.com/wasterecycling.org/resource/resmgr/hwi_minutes/HWI_COVID-2019_FAQs.pdf
- Webinar "Managing COVID-19 Waste": <https://register.gotowebinar.com/recording/4940418410566984712>

General Environmental Guidance

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): <https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus> (includes information on disinfectants)

General Health-Related Guidance

NH Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS): <https://www.nh.gov/covid19/>

US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>